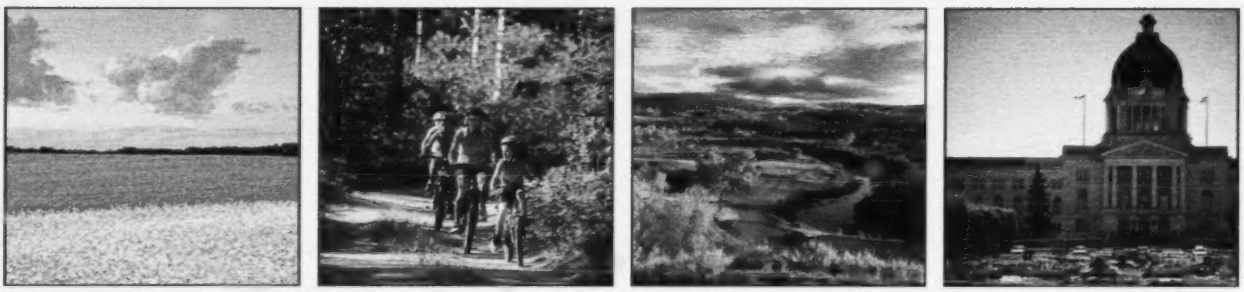
Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport



Plan for 2017-18

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable
Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport

I am pleased to present the Parks, Culture and Sport Plan for 2017-18.

Government Direction and Budget for 2017-18 is focused on *Meeting the Challenge*, finding the right balance between addressing the deficit and ensuring that Saskatchewan people continue to have the programs, services and infrastructure that they need. Government will deliver sustainable, high quality public services in the most cost-effective way possible.

After years of record investments, Saskatchewan's provincial parks and recreation sites hit a new attendance record of nearly 4 million visits in 2016, an increase of more than 100,000 visits from 2015. We will continue to respond to visitor demands this year by investing $5 million in capital to projects throughout our provincial parks. We will maintain and renew infrastructure and facilities to meet growing park visitor needs.

The Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM) also set visitation records in 2016. The increase is credited, in large part, to the launch of new exhibits, programs, events and important research performed by RSM scientists. During the summer of 2016, attendance at the RSM increased by 30 per cent compared to the same period in 2015. This year, we will focus on maintaining engagement at the RSM through innovative exhibits, programs and scientific discoveries.

Our province's continued growth means that more people from around the world are choosing Saskatchewan as a place to live, work and raise a family. In order to continue this growth and to maintain a strong quality of life for our residents, our ministry will continue to work with our partners and stakeholders to offer access to our parks, arts, culture and heritage sectors, and sport and recreation programming.

Our ministry, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, will work throughout the year ahead to prepare for hosting a national gathering in May of 2018 that will be titled "Gathering Strength -- the Framework for Recreation in Canada Forum 2018." The forum will bring together all levels of government and the recreation sector to continue momentum in the implementation of the framework.

Our ministry is also looking forward to celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary this year. Provincial parks will feature many activities and events, as well as some special Canada 150 announcements coming soon. The RSM will be leading two BioBlitz Canada 150 events, including one of five nationwide flagship events for the public.

Our progress will be reported in the 2017-18 annual report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Meeting the Challenge* of the current fiscal situation. In so doing, Government will continue to support and encourage economic growth, and ensure government services are affordable and sustainable in the long term. This will include pursuing transformational change so that Saskatchewan people have the programs, services and infrastructure they need now and in the future.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2017-18 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry's strategic focus is on quality of life and economic growth. The Ministry works with diverse groups and communities to enhance the Province's cultural, artistic, recreational and social life; to promote excellence in the arts, culture, heritage and sport; and to support a vibrant and growing arts and cultural community. The Ministry manages and enhances Saskatchewan's provincial parks system, conserves ecosystems and cultural resources, and provides recreational and interpretive opportunities for park visitors.

Mission Statement

Contribute to Saskatchewan's high quality of life, instill pride and enhance economic growth through management of the Saskatchewan provincial parks system, the provision of arts, culture, recreation, sport and tourism opportunities, and through stewardship of provincial heritage resources.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people
Meeting the challenges of growth
Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people
Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

High quality visitor experiences

Strategy

Maintain, renew and expand provincial park infrastructure and facilities to meet growing park visitor needs

Key Actions

- Implement an improved asset management system for provincial parks to prioritize capital investments.
- Respond to growing park visitor demands for camping, recreational and cultural opportunities by enhancing park infrastructure, such as upgrades to service centres, boat launches and trails.

Strategy

Enhance visitor programs, service delivery and the range of attractions available in provincial parks that will increase visitation and maintain high visitor satisfaction

Key Actions

- Implement programs throughout provincial parks, including special events to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary.
- Enhance camping, outdoor recreation and tourism services.
- Develop new ways to deliver customer services including the use of technology.
- Work with the private sector to facilitate renewal / expansion and development of new recreational services in or adjacent to parks.
- Continue work to proclaim a new provincial park in the Porcupine Hills area.

Strategy

Maintain community engagement and increase visitation at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM)

Key Actions

- Revitalize exhibits to ensure visitors receive current and relevant information about Saskatchewan's natural and human history.
- Provide innovative public experiences at the RSM and T.rex Discovery Centre.
- Promote discoveries made by RSM scientists.

Performance Measures

Number of Visitor Days in Saskatchewan Provincial Parks

Increase the number of visitor days spent in Saskatchewan provincial parks.

Satisfaction with Saskatchewan Provincial Parks Visit

Maintain high levels of satisfaction with the visitor experiences in Saskatchewan provincial parks.

Number of Visitors at Ministry Attractions

Increase the number of visitors to the RSM and T.rex Discovery Centre.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Saskatchewan park lands, heritage sites and collections are protected and conserved

Strategy

Improve heritage site protection, conservation and management

Key Actions

- Increase the number of provincial heritage property designations.
- Raise awareness and promote the positive benefits of conserving heritage property.
- Provide regulatory, advisory and capacity-building services to assist property owners, land developers and communities.
- Improve documented archaeological heritage including cultural protected areas on park lands.

Strategy

The Ministry's heritage collections and assets are preserved and documented for future generations

Key Actions

- Upgrade storage, cataloguing and digitization of collections at the RSM.
- Complete an inventory and risk assessment of heritage assets located within Saskatchewan provincial parks.
- Increase our knowledge of, and public interest in, Saskatchewan's natural history through scientific research at the RSM.

Strategy

Protect the health of the ecosystem in Saskatchewan provincial parks

Key Actions

- Implement a strategy for forest renewal and maintenance that addresses natural disturbance events.
- Implement grazing and prescribed fire management, restoration projects, and invasive exotic plant species control programs for grasslands.
- Implement core area vegetation management plans including replanting, and tree and shrub management.

Performance Measures

Total Number of New Provincial Heritage Property Designations

Increase the number of existing Provincial Heritage Property Designations.

Total Hectares Treated with Biological, Chemical, Mechanical or Other Controls Including the Use of Prescribed Burns

Increase the number of hectares treated for invasive exotic plant species.

Total Number of Forested Hectares Treated by Either Mechanical Harvesting or Prescribed Burns per Year in Provincial Parks

Increase the number of forested hectares treated that reduce the ecosystem deficit in provincial parks.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Strong arts, culture and heritage sectors

Strategy

Promote investment in and provide support to the arts, culture and heritage sectors

Key Actions

- Invest in Creative Saskatchewan to bring our province's creative talent and cultural products to market.
- Invest in the Saskatchewan Arts Board to enrich communities through the arts.
- Collaborate with Creative Saskatchewan to develop a strategic facility use plan for the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studio (Soundstage).

Performance Measures

Total Culture GDP in Saskatchewan

Improve the overall contribution of culture to Saskatchewan's GDP.

Total Employment in the Arts and Culture Sector in Saskatchewan

Track employment in the arts and culture sector in Saskatchewan.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

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Ministry Goal

Increase participation in sport, culture and recreation

Strategy

Implement Saskatchewan's priorities from the *Framework for Recreation in Canada (2015)*

Key Actions

- Support community investments through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund and the Community Initiatives Fund.
- Reduce barriers to participation.
- Partner with Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association to co-host a 2018 Framework for Recreation in Canada Forum.

Highlights

2017-18 Budget Highlights:

The fiscal challenge facing our province is clear. While we see signals of economic recovery it is slower than we had hoped. The Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport will continue to operate programs in support of provincial parks, heritage and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum (RSM). The Ministry will also continue to fund and support our partners and stakeholders in promoting the value of arts, culture, sport and recreation.

Provincial parks visitation and visitor satisfaction remain high and Saskatchewan Parks will work to maintain infrastructure and offer programs to keep attracting new visitors. RSM visitation has been extremely strong and continues to increase. The Ministry will continue to support work being done by the RSM.

Although with some modest reductions, the Ministry will continue to keep the arts, culture, sport and recreation sectors and stakeholders strong and viable by investing:

- $6.610M to Saskatchewan Arts Board to keep our arts community strong by investing in the arts, artists and arts organizations; and
- $7.314M to Creative Saskatchewan to grow a creative economy and the commercialization of creative products.

In order to ensure that government investment remains focused on providing effective and efficient core programs and services, the 2017-18 budget includes the following additional program reductions:

- Continued suspension of the Community Rink Affordability Grant;
- Suspension of program funding for the Main Street Saskatchewan Program;
- Elimination of the Culture on the Go program; and
- Reduction in funding to the Meewasin Valley Authority, regional parks and the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation.

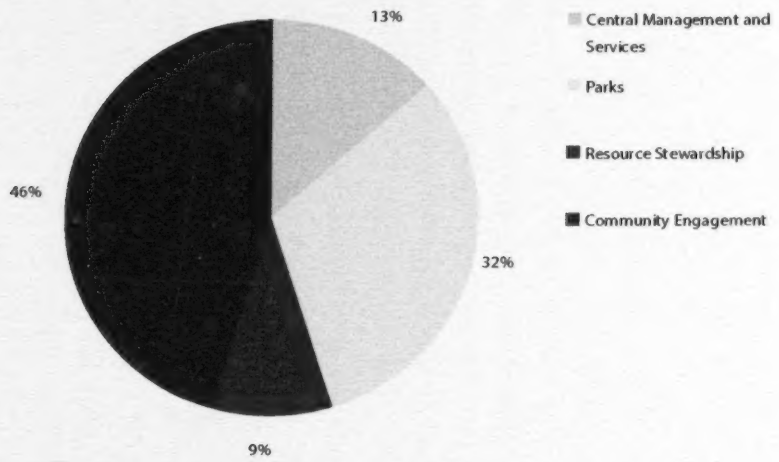
Financial Summary

2017-18 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	$9,060
Parks	21,324
Community Engagement	30,623
Resource Stewardship	6,356
Ministry Operations Appropriation	**67,363**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(5,050)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	4,387
Ministry Expense	**66,700**

FTE Staff Complement	
Ministry	116.9
Commercial Revolving Fund	238. 8
Total FTE Complement	**355.7**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget

Ministry Spending by Key Program Area



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/parks-culture-and-sport